

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TEMPLE SHOLOM

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Temple Sholom in Broomall, Pennsylvania.

Temple Sholom, founded in 1956, is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism dedicated to the promotion of fundamental Jewish principles. The Temple strives to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people by honoring traditions, beliefs and rituals of both the past and present. It allows members to develop their spiritual relationship with God and each other. Temple Sholom also serves to promote a firm sense of identity for its members and employs social activism to improve local, national and global communities.

Temple Sholom is a Reform Congregation, promoting a sense of warmth and openness. Through the practice of inclusion, the Temple aids its members throughout their lives and does not exclude individuals regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation. Such diversity and heterogeneity within the community adds to the ever-changing personality of the Temple.

Temple Sholom serves its members beyond religious practice. It also assists individuals with social, educational and community opportunities. Members adopt the Temple as a place to study, worship and simply interact with others. Opportunities for participation include Preschool through Adult Education programs as well as holiday festivals and community service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Temple Sholom. The openness and warmth of the Temple and its members is highly admirable. It is without doubt that Temple Sholom will, in the future, continue to serve our citizens on local, national and global levels.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICHOLAS J. PIRRO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor someone who is a good friend and for whom I hold great respect—Mr. Nicholas J. Pirro. For two decades Nick has served as Onondaga County Executive, and it has been a great honor to work with him for so many years.

Nick began his career in county government in 1965, when he was elected to the Onondaga County Board of Supervisors, the precursor to today's Onondaga County Legislature. He would eventually be elected as the Legislature's chairman. In 1987, Nick was

elected to the first of five terms as Onondaga County Executive, an office he would hold for 20 years.

When Nick took office in 1987, he was confronted with a number of challenging tasks. Onondaga County had a failing trash disposal system and jails that were so severely overcrowded that the U.S. Justice Department filed a remediation order. The county was also faced with the tremendous task of cleaning up Onondaga Lake after a Federal clean-up order was issued. Convention business was stagnant due to the lack of appropriate facilities and the future of Syracuse's Triple-A baseball franchise was in jeopardy because of an insufficient stadium. In addition, Onondaga County tax payers were feeling the heavy burden of high Medicaid costs.

Today, as Nick steps down as County Executive, Onondaga County has a state-of-the-art trash disposal system and a new county justice center, which opened in 1995. A local, State, and federally-shared \$535-million clean up of Onondaga Lake has been ongoing for the past 10 years. The OnCenter was opened in 1992 to increase the success of convention business and a convention center hotel will begin construction soon. The Syracuse Chiefs have a state-of-the-art baseball stadium that was built in 1997. Skyrocketing Medicaid costs have been curbed by instituting a State-wide price cap that Nick was instrumental in obtaining due to his lobbying of State lawmakers for change.

Onondaga County in 1987 is vastly different from Onondaga County in 2007, and a large reason for that is because of the efforts of Nick Pirro. For 20 years Nick has been the face of Onondaga County and has been committed to doing what was right for the people he so faithfully served.

I thank Nick for his 42 years of serving Onondaga County and recognize his wife Patti and his children Nicholas III and Jessica for sharing him with us for so many years. While Nick is retiring, I know he will continue to be a fixture in the community and an advocate for the people of Onondaga County. I congratulate Nick on a job well done and wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement. We will miss him.

IN HONOR OF THE TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SERVICE OF ROBERT GABRIEL SHORTAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, Robert Gabriel Shortal of Harrington Park, NJ. From the time that he, his wife, Jackie, and his children moved to this small Bergen County suburb, the Shortal family has been an integral part of this community, raising money for the public li-

brary and founding the Harrington Park Swim Club and more.

Bob was born in Kearny, NJ, in 1928. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bob convinced his father to allow him to enlist at the young age of 16. He served honorably with the Navy, stationed on a destroyer in the Atlantic theater. Upon his discharge, he completed his education, studying journalism at New York University. He worked for United Press International, UPI, first as a copy boy and later as a financial reporter. Dedicated to his profession, Bob joined the Financial Writers Association and became its president in 1958.

As his family grew, Bob switched to work in public relations, first at City Service and later at RCA, where he remained until his retirement in 1985. Upon his retirement, Bob threw his talents and energies into community service. He became a certified EMT and became a leader with the Harrington Park Ambulance Corps. He has applied his journalist's skills as editor of the Harrington Park Newsletter. And, he has served his fellow veterans as Commander of American Legion Post 30. Bob is an active member of the Our Lady of Victories Church community and the Knights of Columbus. And, he can often be found working as a school crossing guard.

In 1992, Bob was elected to the Borough Council. He has chaired or served on each of its standing committees until his retirement last year. All the while, Bob and Jackie raised a lovely family of four children—John Frances, Mary Judith, Roberta Ann, and Judith Ann. Jackie passed away in 1999, but Bob remains blessed with seven beautiful grandchildren and a lifetime of memories.

Bob Shortal epitomizes public service. He has answered the call of his country and his community and given of his talents and time for his neighbors. I join the people of the Borough of Harrington Park in honoring Bob for his dedication and commitment.

PASSING OF FORMER DELEGATE MARGARETTE LEACH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, West Virginia recently lost an outstanding daughter, Margarette Leach. Margarette passed away on December 23, 2007, but today I rise to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her many years, was a torchbearer in the arenas of healthcare and politics in West Virginia.

The unfortunate news of her passing has brought sadness to so many throughout West Virginia, including those who did not have the opportunity to meet Mrs. Leach but who have

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